THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) Mining rights are granted by the concerned State Governments in accordance with the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and rules made thereunder. Mining activity in the country has historically been undertaken both, by public sector as well as private sector companies. The total No. of 60 companies in private sector have been permitted to under take mining activities in Maharashtra for minerals other than non atomic, non fuel and minor minerals. As per Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 mining rights can be given only to an Indian National or a company defined in sub-section (1) of section (3) of the Companies Act, 1956. Provided that in respect of any mineral specified in the First Schedule, no prospecting licence or mining lease shall be granted except with the previous approval of the Central Government.

(c) and (d) Indian Bureau of Mines enforces Mineral Conservation and Development Rules 1988 (MCDR) through regular inspecting and any violation of rule whenever observed and pointed out to the lessee for rectifications in the interest of systematic and scientific development of mines and protection of environment. In case of chronic defaulters of MCRD, 1988, cases are filed in the local courts against such companies if the violations have not been complied with within the stipulated time.

Amguri Power Project in Assam

3696. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Gas based Amguri Power Project in Assam and particulars of agencies entrusted with the work;

(b) the reasons for delay in execution of the said project;

(c) the quantum of gas committed by Oil Industry in the first MOU and the action initiated to ensure gas linkage;

(d) the target fixed for commissioning of the project;

(e) whether a proposal for installing the project with alternative fuel is under consideration; and

(f) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (d) Work on the Amguri gas based power project in Assam has not yet been taken into hand. The Government of Assam has transferred the project to NTPC which has not yet been allocated the requisite gas for this project. The implementation of the project would be dependent upon a firm gas allocation being made for this project by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.

(e) and (f) As of now an alternative fuel is not being considered for the project.

Marketing of Jute Products

3697. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry in consultation with the Textiles Ministry has prepared a comprehensive plan for diversification and marketing of jute products; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Rural Development Projects of Uttar Pradesh

3698. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some rural development projects of Uttar Pradesh particularly regarding Meerut Division are still lying pending for approval with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise and the dates of their pendency;

(c) the estimated cost of each of these projects;

(d) the reasons for delay in granting approval to these projects; and

(e) the time by which these projects are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) :

(a) to (e) No rural development project is pending for approval with the Ministry so far as Uttar Pradesh State is concerned.

[English]

Provision of Finance by PFC on Lease in Delhi

3699. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Finance Corporation has explored/ exploring the possibilities of providing finance on lease for power project in National Capital Territory of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the total funds provided for the power projects in Delhi during the last three years, year-wise and details of achievements thereof?